March 4, 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Expression of Interest Letter - WC Docket 10-90, Connect America Fund

Dear Ms. Marlene Dortch,

This letter is submitted to Express Interest in participating in the Rural Broadband Experiments. Mobius Communications Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hemingford Cooperative Telephone Company [(incumbent Rate of Return local exchange carrier ("RoR LEC")] providing voice and broadband services to rural consumers for over 83 years in rural Nebraska with an average density of .2 customers per square mile.

This track record proves that Mobius Communications Company has the experience and dedication to rural consumers needed to successfully deploy broadband in unserved areas. Mobius Communications Company has ETC status in the state of Nebraska and has recently completed two FTTH projects in remote and rural areas in Western Nebraska.

Broadband networks, particularly high-speed broadband networks, are expensive to build and cost recovery typically requires multiple years in rural high-cost areas and Mobius Communications Company is very interested in partnering with the FCC to conduct experiments to find creative ways of deploying high-speed, scalable, IP-based networks in rural high-cost areas.

In particular, Mobius Communications Company recognizes the need for service to be available to local schools, hospitals and other anchor institutions to ensure rural economic development and opportunity for all Americans. To that end, Mobius Communications Company will take all steps to ensure our experiments maximize accessibility for all anchor institutions in the proposed areas. The details of our potential experiment may be found below.

#### **Location of Potential Experiments**

Mobius Communications Company is interested in providing service to eligible locations in Census Tracts within Box Butte, Sioux, Dawes, and Scottsbluff counties, Nebraska. According to the FCC's release of potentially eligible Tracts, we propose to provide service in the following Census Tracts: 9511, 9512, 9513, 9501, 9506, 9507, 9529, 9530, and 9534. Mobius Communications Company would not duplicate current services of our parent company the Hemingford Cooperative Telephone Company in the above census tracts but provide enhanced services outside of the ILEC exchange area.

## **Broadband Technology**

Based on the funding level available, Mobius Communications Company would use [fiber to the premise/fixed LTE or a combination of the two] to deploy broadband capable network in the proposed census Tracts.

# **Service Offerings**

The IP Network described above would be capable of supporting voice, high-speed broadband of at least 4Mbps downstream and 1Mbps upstream with an almost unlimited speed capacity. The exact prices of these services still need to be determined, however, they will likely be similar to Mobius Communications Company's current offerings to our existing customers.

## **Existing Providers**

Although Century Link serves a portion of the proposed experiment area, the service is offered over an obsolete DSL network that provides limited speeds and reliability. This offering is inferior to the network that Mobius Communications Company would deploy in its experiment and it is therefore in the public interest for the FCC to deviate from its general policy of not supporting two or more providers in an area.

### **Necessary Funding**

Mobius Communications Company Rural Broadband Experiments

Project	Equipment	Quantity	Unit Price	<b>Total Price</b>
Fiber Expansion	Fiber	400 miles	\$.80/foot	\$1,689,600
	Hut	8	\$25,450	\$203,600
	Contract - Plowing	350 miles	\$1.10/foot	\$2,032,800
	Contract - Boring	120	\$1,500	\$180,000
	Customer Premise	256	\$758	\$194,048
	Peds	320	\$425	\$136,000
	Conduit			\$190,080
	CO Equipment			\$119,000
	Switching Capacity			\$35,000
Total				\$4,780,128

Mobius Communications Company thanks the FCC for the opportunity to participate in this process. Any questions about this letter of interest should be directed to Tonya Mayer at the information below.

Sincerely, Norya Wage

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Mobius Communications Company

308-487-5500